the commissioning of Blast Furnace No. 1. After the start of operation, the Management of VSP did not import any refractories during the year 1990-91. For its requirement during 1991-92, the Management has finalised an order for import of refractories, required for continuous casting machines, for a C.I.F. value of Rs. 2.40 crores out of a total purchase of refractory material worth Rs. 55 crores. The import of refractories by Visakhapatnam Steel Plant relate to special refractories not manufactured in the country.

(b) and (c) Andhra Pradesh Refractories Ltd. is located near Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Orders are placed on the units which meet the specification and delivery requirements and are competitive on prices. The local units are given purchase preference by VSP, subject to their fulfilling technological requirements and price competitiveness.

Remmunerative Prices for Agricultural Produce

*327. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what steps Government are taking to provide remunerative prices for agriculture produce?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): One of the main objectives of the Government's agricultural price policy is to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce. The Government have recently revised the methodology for estimation of cost of production of crops to make procurement/minimum support prices more remunerative. The CACP considers the estimates of cost of production based on the revised methodology while recommending the minimum support prices with effect from the kharif crops of 1990-91.

Further, the minimum support prices for kharif crops of 1991-92 have been suitably fixed taking into account 30 per cent rise in fertilisers prices for compensating the farmers. The prices recommended not only cover cost of production but also provide for a reasonable margin of profit. Thus, the minimum support prices fixed are more remunerative.

Sports Policy

*328. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the Sports policy in various fields to impart physical education to the youth at the grass-root level in rural and urban areas of the country;

(b) whether the Sports Authority of India has drawn any programme for involving the youth for inculcating the habit of physical exercises; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Resolution on National Sports Policy adopted by Government in 1984 and laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament contains the following salient features to impart physical education to youth at the grass-root level in rural and urban areas of the country:—

(i) Promotion of sports infrastructure in villages and town such as play-fields, indoor stadia etc.

(ii) Preservation of playfields and open spaces.

(iii) Promotion of Sports and Physical Education in Educational Institutes and in non-Government institutions.

(iv) Establishment of Sports Institutions with special emphasis on Physical Education.

In the overall mosaic of the education system a place has also been provided for Physical Education in order

to establish a balance and strengthen links between physical education and other components of education. Keeping in view the stipulations in the National Policy on Education, 1986, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has recommended national curriculum for various stages. In these curricula, Health and Physical Education have been perceived as an integral part of the common curriculum at every stage.

To provide a meaningful leadership for young aspiring individuals and to inculcate among them the habit of physical exercises, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) (Lakshmibai National College of Physical Education, Gwalior) is operating a Physical Education Programme for which an amount of Rs. 134 lakhs has been allocated during current financial year. Under this Scheme, steps are taken to train Teachers and trainers of Teachers in physical education and sports to develop and promote programmes of physical education and sport in schools and also to promote general mass participation in physical education.

Sports Authority of India has also evolved the National Physical Fitness (Bharatiyam) Scheme to involve students for inculcating the habit of physical exercise. Under this Scheme, the school children in the age group of 6-14 years and Physical Education Teachers are trained in large numbers in the technique of synchronised mass physical fitness activities. Displays of such activties are also held.

In another programme of Sports Authority of India i.e. the Pay and Play Scheme, young persons are provided access to playing and coaching facilities in the stadia of Sports Authority of India on nominal payment.

BLEEP system in the country

*330. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start 'BLEEP' system for paging in the country;

(b) what is the estimated cost of installation of this system; and

(c) by when it is expected to start functioning and whether this facility would be provided to Members of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost details have not been worked out so far for different locations in the country.

(c) The systems are expected to be operational during VIIIth Plan period. This service is proposed to be provided to any desiring person, including Members of Parliament.

Supply of Agricultural inputs

*331. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for non-availability of the fertilizers seeds and insecticides at present for Rabi sowing season;

(b) by when these items are likely to be made available to farmers at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether the shortage of such items is likely to affect the production of Rabi crops?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The supply of major fertilisers during the current Rabi season has been generally satisfactory. Temporary shortages of certain fertilisers have,however, occurred due to constraint in movement of materials and shortfall in local production. Arrangements have been made to meet the shortfall in supply from alternative sources including imports.